

combat in the mountains near Venafro, Italy. In 1943 he took part in Operation Shingle. In early 1944 he was part of an amphibious assault at Anzio. Heavy losses prevented his unit from taking part in D-day in Normandy. Instead, they parachuted into Holland under Operation Market Garden, the airborne invasion of the Netherlands. Under heavy gunfire, memorialized in the film "A Bridge Too Far", he took part in the famous crossing of the Waal River.

In December of 1944, his unit was rushed into the Battle of the Bulge. In January 1945, as his platoon advanced toward Herresbach, Belgium, against heavy snow and freezing cold, they surprised some 200 German troops who were advancing out of town. Megellas's platoon dealt them a serious blow. In an act of incredible bravery, Megellas ran toward a German Mark V tank as it was taking aim toward his platoon. He disabled the tank with a single grenade then, climbing atop, dropped another into the tank saving many of his men.

In 1946 he led his company down 5th Avenue in New York in the Victory Parade. His awards have appropriately been many, including Silver Stars, Bronze Stars, Purple Hearts and the Distinguished Service Cross. He has been honored by the Government of Holland with the Military Order of Willhelm Orange Lanyard.

This son of Fond du Lac served his country with honor and bravery. I commend him and congratulate American Legion Post 75 for bestowing this honor on one of Wisconsin's finest.●

SPENCER, WEST VIRGINIA, CELEBRATION

● Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Madam President, today I honor the town of Spencer, WV, which is celebrating its 150th anniversary. Spencer is a town with a long, rich history that is proudly considered by some as West Virginia's largest small city. It is located centrally in West Virginia and is filled with lots of character and many wonderful people. And I am proud stand here today to brag about this town's fine citizens and share their story.

Even from the earliest days, the people of Spencer have been tough, resourceful, and committed to making good lives for their families. The history of the great town of Spencer began in 1812 when the first settlers, Samuel Tanner and Jonathan Wolfe, sought shelter for their families in a large cave. The area was so beautiful that others decided to make it their home as well. As more settlers gathered, the town evolved. The town's name was changed from Tanner's Cross Road to Cassville and then to New California when a settler stopped by on his way to California.

In 1858, the town was officially chartered by the Virginia General Assembly and renamed Spencer, reportedly in honor of Judge Spencer Roane. Today

we celebrate that official charter and recognize all those who made Spencer what it is today, and those who will help fulfill its future promise.

Spencer currently has a population of nearly 2,300. These residents have really made their home a warm, special place to live and visit. And they're proud of the events and activities that help define their beloved town and honor its history. Presently, Spencer hosts a variety of outdoor events that draw hundreds of people each year. The Black Walnut Festival is filled with exciting attractions—from baking contests and car shows, to grand parades and golf tournaments. The Tour de Lake brings mountain bike racers from all over the State to compete at the scenic Charles Fork Lake. These events, coupled only with the warmth of its people, make Spencer a place people want to visit time and again.

Spencer is an extraordinary town that embodies the greatness and uniqueness of rural America. Its long history and diverse attractions and its terrific, one-of-a-kind people represent the very best of our Mountain State. I hope I have given my colleagues and the rest of our nation just a glimpse of our little town of Spencer—which is big and great in so many ways.●

HONORING WILBUR YACHTS

● Ms. SNOWE. Madam President, growing and maintaining a successful small business is often challenging, but in the end, many find that the rewards are beyond measure. Even more difficult can be forming a successful and environmentally conscientious business, but with the extra trials come even greater benefits. I wish to honor a small business from my home State of Maine that has risen to the top and has been recognized for its unsurpassed efforts in sustaining an environmentally friendly business. For 35 years, Wilbur Yachts of Southwest Harbor has helped to set the standard in the field of custom motorboat construction, and for the last several years, the firm has become an unparalleled leader in helping to challenge Maine's marine industry to protect the State's pristine environment.

In 1973, Lee Wilbur left the field of education to become a boat builder. Over the next 28 years, because of Mr. Wilbur's stalwart resolve and unrelenting desire to effect positive change, he transformed Wilbur Yachts into a company that is widely respected both in Maine and nationwide for its high-quality boats and commitment to environmental excellence. For years, Mr. Wilbur collaborated with other boat makers, building vessels for a diverse array of clients ranging from the Smithsonian Institution to pop singer Billy Joel. In 2001, Mr. Wilbur and his wife Heidi sold the business to their daughter Ingrid and her husband John Kachmar, who have embraced the long-standing tradition of providing unrivaled products while remaining

globally aware. Under their leadership, the company has soared to even newer heights.

This year, Wilbur Yachts celebrated its 35th anniversary, hosting owners of boats which the firm has built for a traditional Marine lobster bake. Coming from every corner of the globe, the owners of this impressive international fleet are a testament to the exceptional nature of Wilbur's yachts. Over the years, the firm's remarkable crafts have been lauded by the likes of Power Cruising, Power & Motoryacht, and Motorboating magazines.

Just as impressive as the company's proud history and enduring commitment to excellence is Wilbur Yachts' dedication to protecting the environment in which it works. The State of Maine recently awarded Wilbur Yachts the gold certification in its Maine Clean Boatyards and Marinas Program. The program identifies and highlights companies that meet or exceed Federal and State environmental standards in five specific areas of evaluation, including waste disposal and storage, and boat sewage and pump-outs. This honor is truly unparalleled, as to date no other boatyard has been acknowledged with this designation, the program's highest level of recognition. While Wilbur Yachts had previously held the silver certification, the most recent evaluation by an independent panel gave the company perfect ratings in all five groups.

Second-generation owners Ingrid and John Kachmar have led Wilbur Yachts to improve safety and reduce environmental impact while simultaneously cultivating a company where, according to its motto, "Maine Tradition Meets Modern Technology." I applaud both the company's owners and its employees for all of their efforts in producing yachts in an environmentally responsible manner and wish them the best of luck for the future.●

TRIBUTE TO CANYON LAKE ALL- STAR LITTLE LEAGUE TEAM

● Mr. THUNE. Madam President, today I honor the Canyon Lake All-Star Little League team on becoming the first team from South Dakota to qualify and play in the Little League World Series in Williamsport, PA.

The Canyon Lake All-Star Little League team's journey to the World Series was one filled with great excitement and execution. After a turbulent first three innings in the qualifying game, Canyon Lake scored three runs in the bottom of the fourth capturing the lead. They continued their rally into the fifth inning where they scored another four runs defeating the Coon Rapids Little League team with a final score of 7-1.

Canyon Lake was led by manager Doug Simons and assistant managers Jeff Minnick and Steve Nolan. Of course, this historic season would be impossible without the players themselves. The athletes of the 2007-2008

Canyon Lake All-Star Little League team, in alphabetical order, are as follows: Logan Anderson, Cale Fierro, Tanner Hagen, Jonah Hanson, Bill Hendricks, Matt Minnick, TJ Nolan, Mark Petereit, Jesse Riddle, Tanner Simons, Carter Wevik, Matt Wilson, and Alec Winter.

As a father of two student athletes, I know firsthand how much time and effort is needed from parents and families in order for our children to succeed. It is because of their support that these young people were able to reach this outstanding accomplishment. All of these families should be commended for the dedication they put forth to support their children.

All of these players should be commended for their efforts. These athletes should be very proud of all their remarkable achievements. On behalf of the State of South Dakota, I am please to say congratulations Canyon Lake All-Stars on this impressive accomplishment and keep up the good work.●

TRIBUTE TO COLONEL GREGG BLANCHARD

● Mr. THUNE. Madam President, today I rise to pay tribute to COL Gregg Blanchard, U.S. Army, on the occasion of his retirement after over 21 years of dedicated service. He is a true patriot and exceptional military leader—a living example of what is good about America.

Colonel Blanchard and his wife, Barb, both hail from Rapid City, SD. “Doc,” as he is known to his friends, is a proud graduate of Rapid City Central High School and the University of South Dakota. Barb graduated from Rapid City Stevens High School, and from National College in Rapid City.

Colonel Blanchard served successfully in every echelon of the Army, from the platoon to the theater army. He commanded troops at the company and battalion level and served a combat tour in Iraq as the Deputy G4, V Corps. As a logistics officer, Colonel Blanchard’s entire career has been devoted to the care and support of his fellow soldiers and their families. Over 9 of his 21 years were served overseas, where he tirelessly focused on supporting our warriors and their families.

He commanded the 701st Main Support Battalion of the famous 1st Infantry Division—the Big Red One. In this assignment, he supervised the training and welfare of over 1,100 soldiers and their families. His superb leadership and organizational ability were critical to the smooth redeployment of the division from Germany to the United States during the drawdown of forces in Europe. Colonel Blanchard’s superb leadership and positive attitude were contagious and inspired everyone around him to give their best effort.

As the Deputy G4, V Corps and Deputy C-4, Multi-National Corps—Iraq, Colonel Blanchard supervised logistical support to all forces operating in the Iraq Theater of Operations. His superior

skills as a leader, planner and communicator led to several notable assignments in the Pentagon with tours on the Army Staff, the Office of the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and the Office of the Secretary of Defense.

The Army recognized the unique abilities of Colonel Blanchard and selected him as one of four Active Army officers to serve as a Congressional Fellow in 2003. In that capacity he served this body for a year in the office of Senator Mark Dayton from Minnesota. This assignment led to other legislative liaison assignments in the Army and the Joint Staff.

When the first U.S. congressional delegation to Libya in 35 years occurred, then-Lieutenant Colonel Blanchard was selected to escort and coordinate the logistical challenges and country schedules for the trip. He was also instrumental in improving the Army’s process for congressional notification of our fallen soldiers, and for improving the Army’s responsiveness to the tens of thousands of inquiries it receives annually from Members of Congress.

In his current assignment as the Deputy Legislative Assistant to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Colonel Blanchard provides critical assistance to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and to the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence. His advice and counsel is regularly sought by senior defense leaders in the Army, the Joint Community and by Members of Congress and their staffs.

For over 21 years, Colonel Blanchard served this great country from locations all across the world. Whether mentoring and training young troops as a commander, providing for soldiers in combat, developing and affecting policy in the Pentagon, or working with Congress, he served with honor and distinction. He will indeed be remembered as an exceptional officer, a true patriot, a courageous warrior and a dedicated leader with the highest integrity and compassion for all who had the distinct honor of serving with him.

Barb and their children, Brittany and Alex, have demonstrated unwavering support throughout Colonel Blanchard’s distinguished career. This Nation is also grateful for their sacrifices that enabled Colonel Blanchard to serve with such distinction. Wherever he served, COL Gregg Blanchard set the highest standards of service, professionalism and leadership.●

TRIBUTE TO ART DAWSON

● Mr. THUNE. Madam President, today I honor Art Dawson of Rapid City, SD, for receiving the President’s Volunteer Service Award for volunteering 4,000 hours to his community and to the Nation over the course of his lifetime.

Art Dawson’s outstanding service for others began in 1950 when he joined the U.S. Army. After 30 dedicated years in the military, Art retired as a lieutenant

colonel in medical administration, but his desire to serve others continued. Following his retirement Art worked in the veteran’s administration in California and volunteered for 7 years with the Red Cross. Art moved to Rapid City, SD, in 1996 and immediately became an active and valuable member of the Rapid City Community. Since Art moved to the Rapid City area, he has volunteered himself to countless organizations including the Humane Society, the Pennington County Sheriff’s Department, CASA, and the Meals Program. His selfless devotion and faithful service to others and to his community is truly commendable.

It gives me great pleasure to congratulate Art Dawson for receiving this honorable award, and thank him for all his years of service to South Dakota and our Nation.●

TRIBUTE TO KRISTIE FIEGEN

● Mr. THUNE. Madam President, today I recognize the accomplishments of Junior Achievement of South Dakota. In particular, I would like to congratulate the organization’s President, Kristie Fiegen, for winning JA Worldwide’s 2008 Charles R. Hook Award. This award is bestowed on one Junior Achievement executive annually, and is the top honor for JA Presidents who demonstrate superior results in promoting the growth and development of Junior Achievement in their area.

Junior Achievement is the world’s largest organization dedicated to teaching students in Kindergarten through 12th grade about the importance of economics, entrepreneurship, and financial literacy. The organization reaches over 9 million students around the world each year, with over 130 local offices in the United States and operations in over 110 countries worldwide. One of the things that makes JA so unique is its use of adult volunteers to bring business to life for students. In the U.S. alone, young people in more than 188,000 classrooms benefit annually from these positive role models.

Kristie is clearly deserving of receiving this year’s Hook Award. She has served as President of Junior Achievement of South Dakota since 1994. During this period, she has increased the organization’s reach from 2 percent to more than 28 percent of all South Dakota students. The organization now reaches over 37,000 South Dakota students, impacting over 1,700 classrooms. The organization’s programs are provided at no cost to schools and are funded entirely through the private sector.

Especially in the current economic climate, teaching students the importance of economics and financial literacy is of the utmost importance, and I congratulate Kristie Fiegen and Junior Achievement of South Dakota for their efforts in South Dakota.●